

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-07 USIA-06 COME-00
TRSE-00 EPG-02 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 FDRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
ISO-00 /109 W

-----261858Z 059819 /43

R 261705Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4887

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG, EAGR

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP ROME CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION
PROGRAM

REF: (A) ROME 7019 (B) STATE 101957 (C) ROME 7555 (NOTAL)

1. THE ROME GENEVA GROUP MET ON MAY 25 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF
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THE UK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FAO, LANDYMORE. THERE WERE
TWO MAIN AGENDA ITEMS: FIRST COUNTRY RESPONSES TO THE U.S.
QUESTIONS (REFTEL A) ON THE FAO'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM
(TCP) WHICH ARE DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE; AND SECOND THE GROUP
CONSIDERED THE FAO 1978/79 BUDGET ON THE BASIS OF ITS SUB-
COMMITTEE'S REPORT, SEPTTEL.

2. WITHOUT COMMENT LANDYMORE PROCEEDED AROUND THE TABLE TO HEAR EACH COUNTRIES' POSITION:

(A) THE FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE FROM A LONG, DETAILED INSTRUCTION. FRANCE REAFFIRMED ITS OPPOSITION TO TCP'S IN UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. THIS IS A POSITION OF PRINCIPLE, BUT FRANCE NOTED THE FAO CONSTITUTION PROVIDED FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND MOST SPECIALIZED AGENCIES PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE. THEREFORE FRANCE WILL ONLY SEEK ELIMINATION OF TCP IF THE GENEVA GROUP AGREES TO THE SAME GOAL IN ALL SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. IN THE MEANTIME THE GOAL SHOULD BE TO RESTRICT THE TCP IN THE FAO. IN FRANCE'S VIEW, THE TCP SHOULD RELATE TO EMERGENCIES. IT SHOULD NOT BE USED TO BUY MATERIAL OR FOR INVESTMENT. IT SHOULD NOT BE USED ON MEDIUM-OR LONG-TERM PROJECTS. TECHNICAL COOPERATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE FAO BUDGET ONLY TO EXTENT THERE ARE ECONOMIES ELSEWHERE.

FRANCE IS WORRIED ABOUT AN EVALUATION OF THE TCP BECAUSE WITH THE LDC MAJORITY SUCH AN EVALUATION COULD EASILY LEAD TO A CALL FOR AN INCREASE IN THE PROGRAM. IF THERE IS AN EVALUATION, THEN IT SHOULD BE DONE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE FAO OR UNDP. PERHAPS IT SHOULD BE DONE BY THE UN ITSELF AS AN EVALUATION OF TCP'S OF ALL THE SPECIAL AGENCIES IN GENERAL.

IF THE GENEVA GROUP DOES DECIDE TO OPPOSE THE TCP, THEN FRANCE RECOMMENDS IT BE DONE THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL. COUNCIL OR CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS ARE DANGEROUS AND UNPREDICTABLE.

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(B) JAPAN HAD NO FINAL RESPONSE, BUT JAPAN IS ALSO WORRIED ABOUT THE TCP. HOWEVER, JAPAN DOUBTS THE TCP CAN BE ELIMINATED.

(C) NEW ZEALAND IS IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES BUT:
(1) IT DOESN'T WANT TO CLASH OVER THE TCP; (2) IT DOESN'T BELIEVE SAOUMA WILL GIVE UP THE TCP; AND (3) THE TCP NEEDS TO BE EVALUATED. IN SUM NEW ZEALAND SUPPORTS THE US IN PRIVATE BUT NOT IN PUBLIC.

(D) SWEDEN IS WORRIED ABOUT THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE FAO AND THE UNDP OVER A NUMBER OF ISSUES INCLUDING THE TCP, BUT THE ELIMINATION OF THE TCP WOULD NOT SOLVE THIS CLASH. SWEDEN IS WILLING TO FINANCE TECHNICAL COOPERATION THROUGH REGULAR BUDGETS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES PROVIDED THEY ARE FINITE PROGRAMS AND NOT DUPLICATIVE OF THE UNDP. FOR THIS REASON THEY ARE INTERESTED IN RECONSIDERING THE CRITERIA FOR TCP PROJECTS.

IT IS NOT REALISTIC IN THE SWEDISH VIEW TO THINK THAT
SAOUMA WILL ELIMINATE THE TCP AND THE US OFFERS, REFTEL (A),
WOULD NOT TEMPT HIM. HOWEVER, SWEDEN THINKS THAT THE QUESTION
OF THE PAYMENT OF OVERHEAD CHARGES BY THE UNDP SHOULD NOT BE
DECIDED IN THE FAO. IT IS A SEPARATE, DIFFICULT ISSUE TO BE
CONSIDERED BY THE UNDP AND ECOSOC. SWEDEN DOES NOT YET HAVE
A FINAL POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, BUT TENDS TO BELIEVE THE
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD ABSORB THE OVERHEAD COSTS OF UNDP
PROJECTS.

(E) THE NETHERLANDS IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT DUPLICATION OF
THE TCP AND UNDP PROGRAM, BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE SAOUMA WILL
GIVE UP THE TCP. FURTHER THE DUTCH DO NOT OPPOSE IN PRINCIPLE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SPECIALIZED AGENCY REGULAR BUDGETS OR
IN TRUST FUNDS.

THE DUTCH BELIEVE THAT THE TCP SHOULD BE EVALUATED,
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THAT THE TCP SHOULD FILL GAPS, THAT IT SHOULD NOT COMPLETE WITH
THE UNDP, AND THAT IT BE LIMITED IN SIZE. OUR GOAL SHOULD BE
TO RESTRICT THE TCP RATHER THAN ELIMINATE IT.

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FODAG

(F) AUSTRALIA WELCOMES US QUESTIONS AND IS RESEARCHING ITS ANSWER. AUSTRALIA HAS ASKED ITS MISSIONS TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH RESPECTIVE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OBSERVE CONSENSUS ON UNDP AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. AUSTRALIA HAS ALSO ASKED MISSIONS TO REPORT ON HOW MUCH LEADERSHIP UNDP CAN HANDLE.

BOB SWIFT, AUSTRALIAN EXPERT ON THE FAO AND AN EARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADVISOR TO SAOUMA, HAS REPLIED TO CANBERRA BY CABLE THAT IT IS HARD TO SEE ANY BASIS ON WHICH SAOUMA WOULD ELIMINATE TCP. SWIFT CABLE POINTS OUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE TCP. HE CALLS IT A MODERATE, POPULAR PROGRAM WHICH IS A REASONABLY GOOD USE OF FAO FUNDS. FINALLY SWIFT POINTS OUT THAT THERE IS A REAL DANGER OF PUSHING SAOUMA INTO HANDS OF GROUP OF 77.

(G) BELGIUM HAS NOT TAKEN A POSITION.

(H) SWITZERLAND HAS NOT TAKEN A POSITION.

(I) CANADA OPPOSES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN REGULAR BUDGETS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. HOWEVER CANADA DOES NOT BELIEVE SAOUMA WILL GIVE UP TCP AND IS NOT IMPRESSED BY WEIGHT OF US PROPOSALS. IF GENEVA GROUP DECIDE ON A DEMARCHE IN OPPOSITION TO TCP, THEN CANADA WOULD GO ALONG.

(J) ITALY IS NOT OPPOSED TO TCP BECAUSE IT IS POPULAR WITH GROUP OF 77 AND SAOUMA. HOWEVER, ITALY WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE COORDINATION WITH UNDP AND FOR BASIC CRITERIA TO BE STUDIED. ITALY DOES NOT WANT TCP TO BE INCREASED AND BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE FINANCED THROUGH ECONOMIES.

(K) FRG HASN'T YET ARRIVED AT FIRM POSITION BUT THEY WILL TAKE CAUTIOUS APPROACH. THE TCP EXISTS AND THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO TERMINATE IT. A GENEVA GROUP DEMARCHE WOULD ONLY LEAD TO CLASH WHICH SHOULD BE AVOIDED. NO NEED TO ACT

UNLESS THERE ARE REASONABLE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS. WE NEED MORE INFORMATION ON TCP RESULTS AND TO CONSULT FURTHER. THE FRG, HOWEVER, STILL BELIEVES THE CONSENSUS IS GOOD AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE TCP.

(L) UK SEES NO PROSPECT FOR ELIMINATING TCP IN 1978/79 AND LITTLE HOPE FOR SUCCESS IN 1980/81. THE UK DOES NOT BELIEVE US PROPOSALS COULD PERSUADE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO ELIMINATE TCP AND THUS GOAL SHOULD BE TO CONTAIN TCP. UK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOES SEE A ROLE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SPECIALIZED AGENCY BUDGETS AS LONG AS THERE IS NO DUPLICATION OF UNDP. UK WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN A DEMARCHE TO ELIMINATE TCP UNLESS ALL AGREE AND ARE WILLING TO APPLY SANCTIONS. UK IS NOT WILLING TO APPLY SANCTIONS.

(M) THE US DESCRIBED BRIEFLY OUR TALK WITH SAOUMA ON MAY 6, REFTEL (C). WE ALSO DESCRIBED OUR INSTRUCTIONS TO A SIMILAR DISCUSSION IN THE GENEVA GROUP GENEVA AND OUR TALK WITH WEST ON MAY 12. WE NOTED THAT SAOUMA AND WEST WERE WILLING TO DISCUSS RULES THAT WOULD ASSURE THERE IS NO DUPLICATION OF TCP AND THE UNDP. WE ALSO NOTED THE WILLINGNESS OF SAOUMA AND WEST TO EVALUATE THE TCP IN 1978 AND POSSIBLY CONSIDER A CHANGE OF NAME. FINALLY WE NOTED THAT THE US LIKE FRANCE DOUBTED WHAT WOULD COME OUT OF AN EVALUATION IN 1978 WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY TH FAO COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE IN 1978 WHEN THE ELECTION OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL WOULD BE CLOSER.

3. IN SUMMARY LANDYMORE NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS ON HOW TO PROCEED, BUT MOST COUNTRIES WISHED TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF TCP AND UNDP AND THEREFORE WISHED TO CONSTRAIN TCP. MANY COUNTRIES ALSO WISH TO EVALUATE TCP, BUT FRENCH AND US CONCERNS WERE REAL. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: AGRICULTURE, BUDGETS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 40643289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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